

## IT'S A HARD FIGHT.

THIS AWFUL, BEASTLY BUSINESS  
OF KEEPING UP APPEARANCES.

BLESS'D BE THE NAME OF PEANUTS.

The Idler Eulogizes Ground-Peas in  
a Reminiscent Strain—A Solace in  
the Hour of Trouble—Strictly Per-  
sonal.

"It's easy enough, when hard times come, to intimidate your wife into doing the cooking and to feed your face on herring and mackerels, but, oh! 'tis the tarnation, meanest thing in the world to have your neighbors find it out. It's like wearing a tight shoe, when everybody knows your foot is three sizes too large for it, and you don't get any credit for the shoe's smallness. And so, of all life's duties which wreck perspiration and take the starch from a stiff upper lip, there's none so onerous as this thing of keeping up appearances—of fooling other people while they're fooling you. By 'keeping up appearances' I mean maintaining the outward indications of peace, plenty, and respectability. In the literal sense of the word, a man can keep up his appearance as long as he keeps above the face of the earth, but figuratively speaking, it isn't such a mushy undertaking.

Between pe-white folks, hogs, and myself there is one common bond—our love for peanuts. You may talk about your 'nigger-toes,' your almonds, your pecans, and your English walnuts, with all their wheel ways of British aristocracy, but when it comes down to a case of plain, every-day appetite, put peanuts on my list of fare. The sweetest recollections of my patched-pants ghostly lure me back, like Hamlet's paps' boyhood lured Hamlet, to ground-peas and chickpeas, and when yesterday I stood in awe before the 'In-scrubber' elephant and fed him from these precious treasures, as I surreptitiously pondered on the expediency of testing his good nature with a morsel of tobacco, sweet memories of childhood's days, of contentment with sawdust, peanuts, and elephantine aromas, how I would fain perpetuate them! And then, amid the shades of bygone days, I recall other momentous occasions that bring back the ghosts of former ground peas. Methinks, forsooth, that goobers are inseparably interwoven with every great event in Virginia's history. Let the feelings of our citizens be stirred; let their passions rage and their pills be aroused; let them experience the utmost of emotional excitement, and let us see what they turn to—peanuts. Then it is that 'goobers' flood the land, coming as though sent by tutelary genii, to shed the soothing lustre of their indigestible presence. When the time comes for comfort when the home team has two out, three men on bases, and two strikes against the batter? Where do we seek solace when the histrionic villain 'still smokes' his victim? On what do we lean when we really desire a nut? On what do we lean when the agricultural fair? The answer from the four winds of the earth is ever the same—peanuts. The crash of empires cannot dampen the cadence of their crackling hulls, nor can the check of the most exacting engenderers of their smell. Let the aristocracy scoff and the parvenus erect their noses with patrician hauteur, but leave us, the true patriots of this Commonwealth, this priceless heritage of ante-bellum days.

Fellow-citizens, you who only don two shirts a week, and would fain appear clean to the unsuspecting public, need a hint as to how hard this first shirt is to manage on the fourth day of the indigestible seven? Why and wherefore do you wear your coat soverly buttoned on that day? Is it not to hide the alluvial deposits on that shirt and to keep up appearances while you try to keep down the dirt? Maybe the mere fact that you only wear two shirts a week doesn't bother you in the least (doubtless you have gotten along on less), but it's what your neighbor thinks that worries you. And he, on his side of the street, will be wondering whether the length of his coat-tails obscures from public scorn the mosaic work performed by his spouse on the more venerable and perhaps less conspicuous trousers. Personally, the aforesaid mosaic work, blended with the surrounding cloth by an artistic execution of the herringbone stitch, may not disturb him in the least, but he quakes with fear at the body politic who squint at a blemish and smile contemptuously. Why and wherefore, I ask again, do you omit to wear hose, yet carefully polish the toe of your boot? The answer echoes from the sockless horde: 'We're keeping up appearances, yet not saving the expense of hose.' It is forever and eternally the same old game of putting the best foot foremost and attempting to conceal the canker-worm that gnaws your vitals. You fear what other people think and fail to remember that they, in their turn, fear what you think.

Men are had enough in their mendacious competition—Goodness knows—but their weakness in this direction places them in a position to be easily deceived. The dominant sex live entirely for show. With them true happiness consists in having their neighbors think they are rich, prosperous, and admired. A man-ruler, for instance, will hoard his cash and buy a new suit, and he will buy a silk petticoat. Why does he want it? Is a silk petticoat more comfortable than a flannel petticoat? So far as the writer knows, it is not. Why, then, purchase one? The answer is, 'to keep up appearances.' There are many reasons to be put for it: (1) The gods are supposed to bestow silk petticoats exclusively on those they love—i. e., the wealthy; (2) silk petticoats are wanted by every noble lady of the house; (3) who hasn't one? (4) silk petticoats rustle like autumn asphers among the sear and yellow leaf; (5) when this rustle rustles every silk-petticoated female in town will hear it and envy the wearer. The former reason applies to other garments, which, while equally as 'serviceable' without tucks, ruffles, laces, trimmings, frills, etc., yet excite feminine envy and make the wearer an object of hatred and detestation to her co-equal competitors. Your wife is doubtless a good house-keeper, probably much better than all the same she's not going to economize if Mrs. Wagshaw, from across the street, drops in to dinner. The programme of bacon, cabbage, potatoes, and last week's ham, which has already begun to float out on the atmosphere, is miraculously altered, and when you smilingly seat yourself at the table you are inwardly deflected to devour a much better meal than that you smell when you first entered your abode. Why is it thus? Your wife is simply keeping up appearances, and essaying to delude the wily Mrs. Wagshaw. That worthy and communicative person, however, is meeting you with your own tactics, for she, too, is playing the deceitful game of her manner of living. All through life the same colossal fight is fought, and the family skeleton is forever kept squeaked in the closet. Thank Heaven, appetites and hunger are invisible, for how many of us would display them if the X-ray of neighborly curiosity could penetrate so far! Lay down your motive offerings, in gratitude, too, because reserved cuffs cannot speak, nor tan bowery reveal the scars of constant use. These the silence, the marvellous silence—of your wife, who, though you know enough with your own eyes to know that she is playing the deceitful game of her manner of living. All through life the same colossal fight is fought, and the family skeleton is forever kept squeaked in the closet. Thank Heaven, appetites and hunger are invisible, for how many of us would display them if the X-ray of neighborly curiosity could penetrate so far! Lay down your motive offerings, in gratitude, too, because reserved cuffs cannot speak, nor tan bowery reveal the scars of constant use.

To those of the indulgent public who read his letters, and charitably fail to detect the ripe antiquity of his jokes, the 'Idler' begs to address a word. It will

## TO CURE NERVOUS DYSPESIA.

To Gain Flesh, to Sleep Well, to  
Know What Appetite and Good  
Digestion Mean, Make a Test  
of Stuart's Dyspepsia  
Tablets.Interesting Experience of an In-  
dianapolis Gentleman.

No trouble is more common or more misunderstood than nervous dyspepsia. People having it think that their nerves are to blame, and are surprised that they are not cured by nerve medicine and spring remedies; the real seat of the mischief is lost sight of; the stomach is the organ to be looked after.

Nervous dyspepsia often does not have any pain whatever in the stomach, nor perhaps any of the usual symptoms of stomach weakness. Nervous dyspepsia shows itself not in the stomach so much as in nearly every other organ; in some cases the heart palpitates and is irregular; in others the kidneys are affected; in others the bowels are constipated, with headaches; still others are troubled with loss of flesh and appetite, with accumulation of gas, sour fumes, and heartburn.

Mr. A. W. Sharper, of No. 61 Prospect street, Indianapolis, Ind., writes as follows: 'A motive of pure gratitude prompts me to write these few lines regarding the new and valuable medicine, Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. I have been a sufferer from nervous dyspepsia for the last four years; have used various patent medicines, but they have done me no good. I have been able to eat without any temporary relief until the effects of the medicine wore off. I attributed this to my sedentary habits, being a book-keeper, with little physical exertion. But I am now able to state that the tablets have overcome all these obstacles, for I have gained in flesh, sleep better, and am better in every way. The above is written not for notoriety, but is based on actual fact.

'Respectfully yours,  
'A. W. SHARPER.  
'61 Prospect street, Indianapolis, Ind.'

It is to be said that Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will cure any stomach weakness or disease except cancer of stomach. They cure sour stomach, gas, loss of flesh and appetite, sleeplessness, palpitation, heartburn, constipation, and headache. They are for valuable little book on stomach diseases by addressing Stuart Company, Marshall, Mich.

All druggists sell full-sized packages at 50 cents.

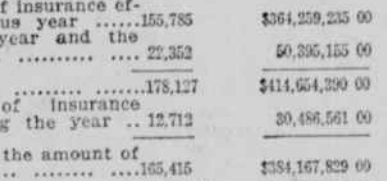
Value of Teeth.

If you want your children to have good teeth, and of course, you do, then they will then drink less at the table, have perfect digestion with the active lives they lead, and if there are no hereditary crimes to suffer for, their teeth will be as strong and clean as a cat's. And they don't want soft bread, either; make the crusts entire, which contain oxygen, or the charcoal, which purifies the system. Put butter, jam, or a penny on the bread-crusts—anything to save the emaciated little creature from a painful youth and pleasurable old-age. It is a mistake to give a lot of food before people, particularly children. We overeat unconsciously. A child at table gorges itself, whereas, served alone, anywhere but in the dining-room or kitchen, it is satisfied with a single course, and goes away comfortable and happy.

No Need to Learn.

(Harper's Round Table.)  
'I'm afraid you'll never know how to write, Tommie,' said his teacher, sadly. 'Don't care,' said Tommie. 'Uncle Jim is going to send me a typewriter for my birthday.'

COTTOLINE.



Also  
St. Louis, New Orleans, Baltimore.

INSURANCE STATEMENT.

(PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.)

NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1896, OF THE ACTUAL CONDITION OF THE NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, MADE TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, PURSUANT TO THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

Name of the Company in Full—NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Location of Home or Principal Office of said Company—MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Character of the Company—LIFE.

President—H. J. SKINNER.

Secretary—W. J. SKINNER.

Name of the General Agent in Virginia—J. B. CARY &amp; SON.

Residence—RICHMOND, VA.

Organized or Incorporated—MARCH, 1857.

Commenced Business—NOVEMBER, 25, 1858.

No.	Amount.
The amount of capital stock, none—purely mutual.	
The number of policies and the amount of insurance effected thereby in force at end of previous year	\$364,259,235.00
The number of policies issued during the year	22,362
The amount of insurance effected thereby	\$144,664,399.00
Total	\$508,923,634.00
The number of policies and the amount of insurance which have ceased to be in force during the year	12,712
The whole number of policies in force, and the amount of liabilities or risks thereon	\$384,167,829.00
The amount of premiums and annuities received during the year	\$14,263,174.23
The amount of interest received from all sources	4,132,709.38
The amount of all other receipts	142,944.96
Total	\$18,838,828.57
The amount of losses and mutual endowments paid during the year	\$4,041,329.08
The amount of expenditures for all purposes (except losses and mutual endowments and dividends)	1,372,627.61
The amount of dividends paid	3,729,528.74
Total	\$9,143,485.43
The amount of losses and endowments unadjusted, etc.	\$2,381,125.59
The amount of all other liabilities	72,812,596.00
Total	\$75,193,721.59
The amount of assets and how invested:	
Cash on hand and in banks	\$1,838,229.72
Real estate unencumbered	1,084,214.23
United States registered bonds (market value)	2,230,720.00
State, county, city, and town bonds (market value)	12,390,690.96
Accrued interest and rent	1,611,067.29
Due and deferred premiums	1,903,139.20
Premium notes	286,394.63
Loans on company's policies assigned to company as collateral	3,817,225.00
Loans on bonds and other securities (paid up to double the amount for which the same is mortgaged, and except as to prior incumbrances (except as to prior tax liens), and 61 loans aggregating \$1,870,560, having priority for which company is fully insured)	66,571,974.65
Carried out at market value—Total	\$2,643,963.74

BUSINESS IN VIRGINIA DURING 1896.

No.	Amount.
Number and amount of policies in force December 31st of previous year	3,028 \$7,836,006.00
Number and amount of policies issued during the year	413 1,084,214.23
Total	3,441 \$8,920,220.23
Deduct number and amount of policies which have ceased to be in force during the year, including removals from the State	323 \$81,264.00
Total amount of policies in force December 31st, 1896	3,118 \$8,838,956.23
Total amount of losses and claims on policies unpaid December 31st of previous year	1,406.07
Amount of losses and claims on policies incurred during the year	29 67,447.00
Total	29 68,853.07
Amount of losses and claims on policies paid during the year	28 67,912.67
Amount of assessments, premiums, dues, and fees collected or secured in Virginia during the year, in cash and notes or credits, and after deduction for losses, dividends, commissions, or other expenses:	\$209,569.41
Cash	656.30
Notes or credits	\$270,196.80
Total	(Signed) H. L. PALMER, President.
(Seal of the Corporation.)	(Signed) J. W. SKINNER, Secretary.
STATE OF WISCONSIN, CITY OF MILWAUKEE—ss:	
Sworn to February 5, 1897, before	P. R. SANBORN, Notary Public.

JOHN B. CARY &amp; SON,

General Agents for Virginia and North Carolina,

1201 Main Street,

RICHMOND, VA.

(Je 21-law41)

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## INSURANCE STATEMENT.

(PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA.)

ST. PAUL FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1896, OF THE CONDITION AND AFFAIRS OF THE ST. PAUL FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA, MADE TO THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, PURSUANT TO THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

President—C. H. BIGELOW.

Vice-President—PETER BERKEY.

Secretary—A. W. BIGELOW.

Principal Office—CORNER THIRD AND JACKSON STREETS, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Organized or Incorporated—MAY, 1865.

Commenced Business—MAY, 1865.

I.—CAPITAL.	Par Value.	Market Value.
Amount of capital stock subscribed	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Amount of capital stock paid up in cash	500,000.00	500,000.00

II.—ASSETS.	Par Value.	Market Value.
Value of real estate owned by the company	\$508,923.66	\$508,923.66
Loans on mortgage (fully secured) and being the first liens on the fee estate	381,194.22	381,194.22
Loans on mortgage (first liens), upon which more than one year's interest is due	31,200.00	31,200.00
Value of lands mortgaged, exclusive of buildings and perishable improvements	\$448,290.00	\$448,290.00
Value of the buildings mortgaged (insured for \$49,150 as collateral)	475.41	475.41
Total value of said mortgaged premises (carried inside)	\$829,800.00	\$829,800.00

STOCKS AND BONDS OWNED BY THE COMPANY.

Stocks and Bonds	Par Value.	Market Value.
300 shares First National Bank stock, St. Paul, Minn.	\$32,000.00	\$16,800.00
50 shares Merchants' National Bank stock, St. Paul, Minn.	50,000.00	50,000.00
50 shares Second National Bank stock, St. Paul, Minn.	5,000.00	12,500.00
32 shares St. Paul National Bank stock, St. Paul, Minn.	32,000.00	26,500.00
40 shares First National Bank stock, Alexandria, Minn.	4,500.00	4,500.00
60 shares Flour City National Bank stock, Minneapolis, Minn.	6,000.00	6,000.00
10 shares St. Paul Trust Company stock, St. Paul, Minn.	5,000.00	3,000.00
20 shares West Publishing Company stock, St. Paul, Minn.	2,500.00	3,750.00
30 shares First National Bank stock, St. Peter, Minn.	3,000.00	3,750.00
10 shares First National Bank stock, Stillwater, Minn.	5,000.00	8,750.00
6 shares Northwestern National Bank stock, Duluth, Minn.	4,500.00	6,075.00
125 shares First National Bank stock, Minneapolis, Minn.	12,500.00	12,500.00
60 shares American Exchange Bank stock, Duluth, Minn.	6,000.00	7,500.00
100 shares First National Bank stock, Duluth, Minn.	10,000.00	10,000.00
10 shares Northern National Bank stock, Superior, Wis.	5,000.00	5,000.00
100 shares North American Telegraph Company stock, Minneapolis, Minn.	10,000.00	10,000.00
City of St. Paul (Minn.) certificates of indebtedness, 5 per cent., 20 certificates, \$50 each	25,000.00	25,000.00
City of Duluth (Minn.) local improvement certificates, 6 per cent., \$100 each, due 1897	10,000.00	10,400.00
Bonds of City of Richmond, Va., 4 per cent., registered, due 1899, 6 bonds	25,000.00	25,000.00
Bonds, State of Georgia, 1-1/2 per cent., due 1897, 30 bonds	25,000.00	25,000.00
City of Portland (Ore.) bridge bonds, 5 per cent., due 1922, 20 bonds	22,000.00	26,400.00
City of Portland (Ore.) water bonds, due 1923, 27 bonds	27,000.00	30,800.00
County of Missouri (Mont.) bonds, 6 per cent., due 1900, 10 bonds	10,000.00	10,510.00
Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha railway consolidated first mortgage bonds, 4 per cent., due 1900, 50 bonds	50,000.00	62,000.00
C. N. Nelson Lumber Company (Minnesota) bonds, 6 per cent., due 1898, 10 bonds	10,000.00	10,000.00
City of Portland (Minn.) bonds, 1-1/2 per cent., due 1900, 25 bonds	25,000.00	25,000.00
Bonds city of Jordan, Minn., due 1900, 32 bonds	32,000.00	32,000.00
Bonds Peoria Grape Sugar Company, Peoria, Ill., due 1900, 2 bonds	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town of Vernon (Minn.) bonds, 7 per cent., due 1899, 4 bonds	2,000.00	2,000.00
Town of Jo Davies (Minn.) bonds, 7 per cent., due 1898, 11 bonds	5,500.00	5,500.00
Town of Pilot Grove (Minn.) bonds, 7 per cent., due 1898, 10 bonds	6,500.00	6,500.00
Town of Winnebago City (Minn.) bonds, 7 per cent., due 1898, 10 bonds	10,000.00	10,000.00
Village of Winnebago City (Minn.) bonds, 7 per cent., due 1898, 10 bonds	5,000.00	5,000.00
Town of Pilot Grove (Minn.) bonds, 7 per cent., due 1898, 10 bonds	5,000.00	5,000.00
Town of Winnebago City (Minn.) bonds, 7 per cent., due 1898, 10 bonds	5,000.00	5,000.00
Town of Winnebago City (Minn.) bonds, 7 per cent., due 1898, 10 bonds	36,000.00	36,000.00
County of Kidder (N. D.) bonds, 6 per cent., due 1911, 10 bonds	9,000.00	9,000.00
County of Barnes and Cass (N. D.) joint school district bonds, 8 per cent., due 1904, 10 bonds	7,500.00	7,500.00
Village of Detroit (Minn.) School District, No. 1, 6 per cent., due 1904, 5 bonds	2,500.00	2,500.00
County of Carver (Minn.) school district bonds, 7 per cent., due 1899, 4 bonds	3,000.00	3,000.00
School District No. 12, 6 per cent., due 1900, 3 bonds	1,200.00	1,200.00
County of Jerauld (S. D.) school township bonds, 8 per cent., due 1900, 10 bonds	1,200.00	1,200.00
County of Barnes and Cass (N. D.) joint school district bonds, 8 per cent., due 1911, 6 bonds	2,100.00	2,100.00
County of Ramsey, tax-sale certificate, 12 per cent., due 1897, 1 bond	5,600.00	7,863.77
County warrants, 7 per cent.	1,150.44	1,150.44
Total par and market value (carried out at market value)	\$755,043.38	\$881,123.38

LOANS ON COLLATERALS.

Par Value.	Market Value.	Amount Loaned.
242 shares Merchants' National Bank stock, St. Paul, Minn.	\$34,200.00	\$34,200.00
471 shares Savings Bank stock, St. Paul, Minn.	47,100.00	69,900.00
54 shares Minnesota Loan and Investment Company stock, Minneapolis, Minn.	5,400.00	16,200.00
77 shares Minneapolis Union Elevator Company stock, Minneapolis, Minn.	7,700.00	8,500.00
345 shares Farwell, Ozburn, Kirk & Co.'s stock, St. Paul, Minn. (incorporated).	34,500.00	37,500.00
200 shares Lake Superior Elevator Company stock, Duluth, Minn., and deed of valuable real estate in St. Paul.	10,000.00	15,500.00
100 shares First National Bank of Minneapolis (Minnesota) stock, Minneapolis, Minn.	10,000.00	10,000.00
100 shares Continental National Bank, of Chicago, Ill		